



EQUAL JUSTICE AMERICA

Summer 2026

EJA FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENT



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ORGANIZATION	Legal Aid Chicago

Update 1: So grateful to share that I am in my third week at Legal Aid Chicago as an Equal Justice America Fellow in their Children and Families Practice Group! As part of my fellowship, I will provide updates throughout the summer to provide insight into the incredibly important work being done at Legal Aid Chicago.

In the past two weeks, I have worked on drafting motions and petitions for divorce, child custody, and orders of protection cases, all of which involve survivors of domestic violence. It has been incredibly rewarding to aid survivors in navigating the complex legal system, and their resilience is inspiring. I have also been able to observe Legal Aid Chicago's dedicated attorneys in court proceedings advocating for their clients. As a First-Gen law student, I am so grateful for their mentorship and guidance, and I look forward to learning all that I can this summer. This would not be possible without Equal Justice America's financial support.

Update 2: I can't believe it's already been 5 weeks at Legal Aid Chicago! It has been such a rewarding experience, and I am so grateful to be able to work directly with clients via intakes and interviews. I love being able to get to know the person behind the paperwork. It's easy to get lost in the court documents but knowing that everything I do directly helps a survivor of domestic violence in their healing journey is exactly why I want to pursue public interest.

Update 3: Over the past month and a half, I have gained invaluable legal experience with Legal Aid Chicago. It has been really rewarding to be able to work with domestic violence during directly and listen to them tell their story, while knowing that I have the opportunity to help them have their voices and stories heard. Over the last couple of weeks, I have been working on drafting a direct examination for a hearing for an order of protection. Through this project, I



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have learned how to comb through evidence and how to present a case to a judge in the most relevant and efficient way possible. I am so grateful for this hands-on experience, and I am looking forward to more hearing prep and eventually to observing the hearing itself!

Update 4: My time at Legal Aid Chicago is almost at an end! Working with an incredible team of advocates this summer has provided me with so much guidance surrounding my own legal career. I went into law school knowing that I want to dedicate my career to public service, so I am incredibly grateful to be interning for an organization where public interest is at its core.

Final Reflection: My summer at Legal Aid Chicago as an EJA Fellow in the Children & Families group has been extremely rewarding and inspiring. Over the past three months, I have had the opportunity to work on family law cases that revolve around domestic violence. This is the type of work that I knew I wanted to do when I entered law school, and I am so incredibly grateful to both Legal Aid Chicago and Equal Justice America for giving me the opportunity to do. I have spent the summer working on drafting documents such as Petitions for Dissolution of Marriage, Orders of Protections, and Allocations of Parental Responsibilities. At the beginning of the summer, most of my work was done in a vacuum; I'd look at client's information and fill out each document accordingly. By the end of the summer, I had multiple opportunities to work with clients and hear their stories directly from them. I conducted many intakes where I was able to talk to clients about their legal problems and help them feel that their voices are heard. I also completed a financial affidavit with a client, where I was able to guide the client through part of the divorce process.

One of the most impactful experiences I had during the summer involved combing through discovery in preparation for a hearing on an order of protection. I was tasked with going through text messages sent between our client and her ex-boyfriend in order to create a script for our client's direct examination. This project was particularly impactful because I was able to create a first draft of the examination, receive constructive feedback, rework the draft, and sit in on the client's run through of the hearing with the attorney. It has been an immense privilege to be able to see this project through the end, especially because I will have the opportunity to observe the hearing this fall.

Overall, I have grown both professionally and personally through this internship. Working with domestic violence survivors has taught me a great deal about resilience and how important access to civil legal aid is. It can change countless lives, and I am so grateful to have had a small hand in that while spending my summer at Legal Aid Chicago.